

March 3, 1964

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT SUMMARY

F-5-R-13 Central Montana Fisheries Study--Steve E. Swedberg

Job III. Investigation of Previously Rehabilitated Waters with Regard to Fish Growth and Optimum Planting Time and Numbers to Use in the Initial and Successive Plants

The purpose of this investigation was to evaluate the success of rehabilitation projects throughout the area with regard to fish growth and completeness of rough fish eradication. Also, to investigate the most satisfactory planting time, size, and fish numbers to use in the initial and successive plants.

The initial plant (1959) in Ackley Reservoir was made with unmarked rainbow trout in April, and unmarked brook trout in October. The 1960 plant was made with 3-4 inch marked fish planted in May. ~~One-half~~ the 1961 plant was made in March with 3 inch marked fish, and the other half in June with 6 inch marked fish. The 1962 plant of marked fish consisted of 12,500 rainbow trout in May and July. The May plant was with 3 inch trout and the July plant with 6 inch trout. *with rainbow trout, one-half the plant*

Although no plants of marked fish were assigned for 1963 continued sampling of the various age classes was maintained through the use of gill net sets and angler creel census.

Other rehabilitated waters were sampled, with particular emphasis being paid to Eureka, Willow Creek and Bynum Reservoirs.

We will not continue this project for the following reasons: (1) We plan to treat Ackley Reservoir with rotenone in 1964. Both creel census data and gill net catches indicated that too few trout were being harvested in relation to the large numbers of suckers taken. (2) Also, the ditch-rider for Bynum Reservoir thought that irrigation demands in 1964 would drain the impoundment. We will continue to sample the fish populations in these rehabilitated waters under Job I Inventory of Waters of the Project Area.